

6
C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

1. A spirit level comprising:
a body having a level face for setting a surface;
at least one bubble vial mounted in said body, said bubble vial having a longitudinal axis generally perpendicular to said level face; and
an optical transfer element fixed to said body which transfers an image of said bubble vial to a viewing plane generally parallel to said level face.
2. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said optical transfer element enlarges said image.
3. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said optical transfer element diminishes a size of said image.
4. A spirit level according to claim 1 and comprising illumination apparatus attached to said body for illuminating said image.
5. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said optical transfer element comprises a reflective surface arranged at an angle to said bubble vial and to said viewing plane and which reflects said image of said bubble vial to said viewing plane.
6. A spirit level according to claim 5 wherein said reflective surface comprises a mirror.
7. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said reflective surface comprises a prism.

8. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said optical transfer element comprises an electric viewing device.

9. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said optical transfer element is internally mounted in said spirit level.

10. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said optical transfer element is externally mounted on said spirit level.

11. A spirit level according to claim 1 wherein said optical transfer element is detachable from said spirit level.

12. For use with a spirit level comprising a body having a level face for setting a surface and at least one bubble vial mounted in said body, said bubble vial having a longitudinal axis generally perpendicular to said level face, an optical accessory comprising:

an optical transfer element fixed to said body which transfers an image of said bubble vial to a viewing plane generally parallel to said level face.

13. An optical accessory according to claim 12 wherein said optical transfer element enlarges said image.

14. An optical accessory according to claim 12 wherein said optical transfer element diminishes a size of said image.

15. An optical accessory according to claim 12 wherein said optical transfer element comprises a reflective surface arranged at an angle to said bubble vial and to said viewing plane and

which reflects said image of said bubble vial to said viewing plane.

16. An optical accessory according to claim 15 wherein said reflective surface comprises a mirror.

17. An optical accessory according to claim 15 wherein said reflective surface comprises a prism.

18. An optical accessory according to claim 12 wherein said optical transfer element comprises an electric viewing device.

19. A method for facilitating viewing a bubble vial of a spirit level while setting a vertical surface, said bubble vial having a longitudinal axis generally perpendicular to said vertical surface, the method comprising the steps of:

fixing an optical transfer element to said spirit level which transfers an image of said bubble vial to a viewing plane generally parallel to said vertical surface; and

viewing said bubble in said viewing plane.